

# Rodney Stoke Parish Council

Clerk: Mrs H Marshall 3, Barrows Park, Cheddar BS27 3AZ Tel: 07423283940

## Minutes

Draft Minutes of the Video Conferenced Meeting of Rodney Stoke Parish Council held via Zoom on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2020 at 7pm

Present: Cllr Sealey (Chairman) and Cllrs Dudden, Gladman, James, McGovarin and Ward. Also present was District Cllr Wyke and the Parish Clerk. 0 members of the public were present.

**241.1 Apologies for absence:** Cllrs Dollins, previous commitment and Haskins, family commitment. The apologies were accepted. PCSO Chinnock.

**241.2 Declarations of Interest** None

**241.3 Public Participation** None

**241.4 Minutes** of the Parish Council Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2020, having been previously circulated, were taken as read.

**Resolution:** Cllr Gladman proposed that the Minutes should be approved as a true record, for signature at a later date. Cllr McGovarin seconded. Agreed.

The July Records, having been previously circulated were taken as read and accepted as a true record. Unanimous.

It was noted that there were no decisions made under the Business Continuity Motion in August.

**241.5 Matters arising from the minutes** None

**241.6 Roads Report: A complaint regarding the visibility at the top of The Street, Draycott towards Cheddar** was discussed. The visibility towards Wells was considered more dangerous. It was felt that recent measures taken to prevent cars parking at the top of the Street have improved visibility.

**Resolution:** Contact County Cllr Noel to request that The Street is made a one-way street.

**Request from Cheddar Parish Council to support an Anti-Social Driving Injunction:** It was discussed that speeding in Draycott is a concern.

**Resolution:** To write with support for the Ward Councillor, in principle, to pursue the Injunction, but not to commit to financial support. Unanimous.

**Reinstatement of Roads** No update **Stoke Street Visibility Splay** No update. **Siting of the Speed Indicator Device in Rodney Stoke:** A potential site has been investigated but was considered impractical due to the proximity of the farm access and use by large farm vehicles, which could potentially damage the machine. No further sites are currently under investigation. **Road issues:** in the period to September matters under investigation include: the Grit Bins have been checked and scheduled for refilling; The Brangay Lane Barrier has been scheduled for reinspection.

**241.7 Planning Report:** There is a further consultation on planning application 2020/1334. The Planning Committee will meet on the 24<sup>th</sup> September. There were no further updates to the report.

**241.8 County Council Report:** The report was circulated prior to the meeting. A copy is available in the Minute book.

**241.9 District Council Report:** Matters discussed included: The Stronger Somerset proposal, and an offer to talk to the Council regarding the proposal; business as usual at the District Council; green initiatives; an increase in planning applications; new recycling arrangements; on street living in Glastonbury being addressed; Covid 19 responses are being reviewed; local closures due to infections.

**241.10 Local Government Review:** One Somerset and Stronger Somerset: The Council will be consulted in the near future on the proposals. St Cuthberts Out Parish Council invited the Council to join a coalition of rural Parish Councils to interact with the Unitary Authority(s).

**Resolution:** To join the group in principle, but to maintain independence on a case by case basis. Cllrs James and Sealey will meet to draft the Councils concerns in response to the proposals. District Cllr Wyke and the Parish Clerk will also attend the meeting.

**241.11 The Rev Cobley Playing Fields Report: Review of Playground Covid risk assessment:** Following local outbreaks the Council reviewed measures in place. No changes were proposed but a regular weekly review will be undertaken by Cllrs Sealey and Gladman. The annual inspection report is awaited.

**Resolution:** The playground will remain open subject to weekly reviews.

**Overflow Car Park** will be cut by Cllr Sealey.

**Tree Report:** the inspection has been completed. The report is awaited.

**241.12 New Memorial Hall Report:** The report was deferred to the next meeting.

**241.13 Burial Ground Report:** There were no interments this period and no update on the Garden of Remembrance was received from the Diocese. Cllr Gladman and the Clerk will carry out an inspection in October and will report to the next meeting.

**241.14 Somerset Association Local Councils:** The **planning consultations** changes to the current planning system and transparency and competition (land control) will be discussed at the next Planning Committee Meeting. **National Salary Award:**

**Resolution:** Cllr Ward proposed that the salary award be approved and back dated to the 1<sup>st</sup> April. Cllr Gladman seconded. Agreed.

**Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings regulations** have been updated including to require that all meeting joining details should be published. The Council noted that agendas are compliant with the update. The **Website accessibility statement** is available on the website, all documents added to the website are checked for accessibility. The statement will be reviewed as necessary.

**241.15 Neighbourhood Watch:** the report will be circulated to members when it is received. PCSO Chinnock reported an increase in push bikes thefts and offered to visit the parish to offer free bike marking.

**241.16 Environmental Issues:** the report will be circulated to members when it is received.

**241.17 Footpath Walkers Report** The **footpath off Scaddens Lane**, Rodney Stoke: Mendip Hills AONB have offered to repair the damaged stream bank and a local farmer has offered to donate the stone. Proper consent is currently being sought and a number of agencies have been approached.

**Resolution:** To purchase any necessary materials for the repair. Unanimous

**Mendip Paths Project:** A meeting regarding improvements to the local network, although not in our Parish, is to be held in October. Cllr McGovarin is to attend. The local **footpaths group** have generously cleared the path at the top of Wet Lane and will clear a further path between Back Lane and The Street in the Autumn. The matter of a recent complaint regarding the **overgrown path** to the playing field is being investigated by the group. The Council will consider including an amount in the **budget** for ad hoc works.

**241.18 Emergency Planning** There were no updates.

**241.19 Community Matters. Flagpole for the Pound:** The pole would be covered under the Council's insurance schedule. The Clerk is to consult with Cllr Dollins on the quotations and present a final cost to the next meeting. **Somerset Waste Recycle More** will publish dates for the commencement of the new service. Leaflets are to be sent to homes in the parish. **Somerset**

**Climate Emergency Fund:** Applications open 1<sup>st</sup> October for 6 weeks. Parish Councils can apply for funds for projects totalling £5k to 75K. The Council will draft a proposal and invite the hall committee to consider projects for submission. **Registration of The Pound:** The Council is to seek alternative quotations for consideration. **Public transport across Mendip** the survey was completed for submission.

**241.20 Correspondence** All correspondence was brought to the attention of the Council. Cllr Ward is to investigate the NatWest Switch offers and report to the Council

**241.21 Newsletter:** Include items on the review of the playground opening; bike marking; Scaddens Lane footpath.

**241.22 Statement of Accounts** The accounts were noted but as the approval of the bank reconciliation was not available the item was deferred to the next meeting. It was noted that the VAT reclaim had been received for the year

#### **241.23 Financial Report**

- i. Cllr Dudden proposed that the **Payments Schedule** be approved. Cllr Ward seconded. Agreed.

GWB Services Ltd	1664	Grasscutting	£343.20
IDM Environmental Services Ltd	1665	Treat Wasp Nest	£48.00
GH Jeff	1666	Newsletter Printing	£52.00
H Marshall	1667	Clerks Salary and Expenses Aug	£814.87
HMRC	1668	Clerks PAYE Aug	£40.44
PKF Littlejohn	1669	Annual AGAR Review	£360.00
Arien Designs Ltd	1670	Playground signs & fixings	£225.60
ICO	DD	Data Protection Fees	£35.00
A Chick	1671	Street Cleaning	£218.00
H Marshall	1672	Clerks Salary and Expenses September	£872.57
HMRC	1673	Clerks PAYE September	£38.00

- ii. **Scribe Accounting Software:** A report by the Clerk and Cllr Ward had been previously circulated. Cllr Ward reviewed the software including the benefits and costs. The Clerk and Cllr Ward recommended trialling the software for a year with the reassurance that all data could be retrieved should the subscription was cancelled.  
**Resolution:** To subscribe to the system and review in a year. Unanimous.
  - iii. **Society of Local Council Clerks Virtual National Conference** The Council considered the the lower cost for the virtual event.  
**Resolution:** To support The Clerk in attending the conference.
  - iv. **Conclusion of Audit notice and report;** The External Audit Report was approved with no matters raised. The report has been published.
  - v. **To consider items for the budget:** the resurfacing of the zip wire and remaining equipment in the play area; MUGA; footpaths ad hoc items.
  - vi. **Zoom subscription:** A 30% discounted annual offer was discussed.  
**Resolution:** To subscribe for a year
  - vii. **Photocopier:** The age, need for maintenance of the copier and preference for A3 copies was discussed. **Resolution:** To purchase an A3 photocopier up to the value of £500.
- 241.24 Dates of future meetings** to be agreed subject to coronavirus restrictions.  
19th November 2020  
21<sup>st</sup> January, 18<sup>th</sup> March, 20<sup>th</sup> May 15<sup>th</sup> July, 16<sup>th</sup> September, 18<sup>th</sup> November **2021**

**Time of closing meeting: 9.25pm**